

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for increasing the device count on an ATA bus are provided. The present invention provides a modified ATA bus, to which more than three devices may be interconnected. According to the present invention, a selection command is provided to devices interconnected to the bus over the bus data lines. The devices, upon receiving the selection command, compare an identifier included in or associated with the command to an assigned identifier. A device that is selected prepares to receive an additional command or data, while a device that is not selected disconnects itself from the databus. The present invention includes modifying an ATA controller to issue a drive selection command, and modifying an ATA device, such as a hard disk drive, to allow an identifier to be assigned to that device, and to respond appropriately to a selection command. The present invention further includes providing an interconnection, such as a cable, having terminals to allow more than two devices to be interconnected to a signal channel of a controller.

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